

Great NEWS from the French FLEET,

With an Account of

The Instructions

Which was lately sent by

The French King,

To Monsieur Tourville, his Admiral.

15. June. 1693. Licensed according to Order.

THE *French-Fleet*, according to the Computation of our murmuring *Jacobites*, (notwithstanding their loss of nigh twenty Capital Ships, besides Frigats of Forty, and Fifty, and more Guns, last Year,) is, by a *Romish* sort of *Miracle*, grown this Summer more Potent and Numerous than last, and it is confidently given out, by an odd sort of People among us, That they are both more able, and more resolv'd to Fight us this Year, than they were before: 'Tis true, (it is agreed on all hands,) that the *French King*, since his fatal Defeat at Sea, has been very Industrious; and, as his Majesty was pleas'd to tell his Parliament, very diligent in his applications to repair the remainder of his shatter'd Fleet; but at the same time we never could have any Account of any new Ships of War he hath added this Year, and the *Thoulon Squadron* was never computed above Fifteen Sail, which, as they were absent last Year, by all Accounts, is concluded to be on the Coasts of *Spain* now; so that we may believe them now to be near Fifty Sail, whereas our *Grand Fleet* now consists of near Eighty Sail of Capital Men of War in the Line of Battle, and, praised be God, with a Fair Wind, are Sailed to the Coast of *France*, resolving to Face this so much boasted, formidable Fleet of the *French*; for, by the Accounts from *Paris*, we are inform'd they are to rendezvous at *Bell-Isle*, and the *French King* has sent his Orders to Monsieur *Tourville*, his Admiral, to continue upon their own Coasts, and that if the *English* seem'd to be forward to press a Battle there, not to decline it.

Our Fleet above Three Days ago were seen past *Plimouth*, and we are in daily Expectation of hearing of some Gallant Action from them, though it is generally believ'd, that this pretended Bravery of the *French*, is but a meer *Bravado*, a sweetning Sugar-Plumb to encourage and keep up the sinking Spirits of his fainting *Janasaries* here; for is it reasonable to believe that he will willingly expose the Remainder of his Naval Strength to such Disadvantage now, when less than an equal Number last Year Scour'd, Drove, and Burn'd them from Port to Port. No, no, without all doubt he would think himself happy, could he but secure himself in his Harbours from our Insults; and therefore 'tis not improbably believed, that he has order'd his grand Fleet to keep close in their Fortified Ports, while the *Thoulon Squadron* attacks some place in the *Spanish* Territories, thereby to amuse or divert us from our intended Descent; but a very little time will clear our Doubts in this Matter, and our Admirals are Persons of that known Conduct and Resolution, that we have all the reason in the World to expect, (by God's Blessing) in a short time, to have a very fair Account of them.

# THE HISTORY OF

## THE CITY OF LONDON

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By JOHN STOW.